High speed southern rail corridor

2584. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Karnataka has requested that a high speed southern rail corridor between Chennai-Mumbai *via* Bengalooru and Hubli with an additional link between Bengalooru and Mysore, be planned; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by her Ministry on the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Among the six corridors that have been identified by the Ministry of Railways for carrying out the pre-feasibility studies for High Speed corridor, one corridor *viz*. Chennai-Bangalore-Coimbatore-Ernakulam passes through the State of Karnataka. For the identified corridors, the policy of the Ministry of Railways is that the cost of pre-feasibility studies shall be shared equally between the Ministry of Railways and the concerned State Governments. For all other corridors, the Ministry of Railway's policy is that the concerned State Governments shall bear 80% of the cost of the pre-feasibility studies and the balance cost by Ministry of Railways. Ministry of Railways are therefore willing to bear 20% cost of the pre-feasibility study for the Bangalore-Hubli-Mumbai corridor and the same has been communicated to the Government of Karnataka. Since State Government of Karntaka has not responded, no further action could be taken.

Railway Pension Fund

2585. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Pension Fund constituted in 1964 for meeting the expenditure on pensionary benefits to retiring employees was to be financed on the basis of actual calculation;

(b) if so, whether Railways' contribution to the fund continued to be with reference to the trend of actual withdrawals every year; and

(c) whether an acturial assessment done in 2005 reckoned the accrued liability of pension to Rs 5,41,947 crores and how Railways plans provisioning of such magnitude?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. An actuarial assessment done in 2005-06 placed the accrued liability of pension on Railways at Rs 5,41,947 crore. Since Railways, as a part of Government of India follows Government accounting principles, actuarial assessment, which is based on accrual accounting,

was not considered for implementation. Provisioning of such magnitude was also not considered feasible by the Railways. The Railways have continued with the existing system of appropriation to Pension Fund based on the trend of withdrawals.

Rail accident near Mathura and installation of anti-collision device

2586. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the actual number of deaths in railway accident at Mathura due to collision of two express trains;

(b) the preliminary findings of enquiry;

(c) the time-frame of enquiry;

(d) the status of installations of anti-collision devices in Railways; and

(e) the number of anti-collision devices required and time to be taken to install the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) On 21.10.2009 at 04.55 hrs., 2779 Goa Express collided with 2964 Mewar Express on Mathura-Vrindavan Road block section of Agra Division of North Central Railway. In this accident, 23 persons lost their lives.

(b) As per findings of Preliminary report submitted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, North Eastern Circle, this accident occurred due to not maintaining integrity of the signaling system in the automatic signaling territory by Signal and Telecommunication department of Agra division.

(c) The Commissioner of Railway Safety is expected to submit his Final report shortly.

(d) The Anti-Collision Device (ACD), developed by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL), was approved as a pilot project for Northeast Frontier Railway. It was installed on 1736 Route Kilometers of Northeast Frontier Railway. Based on the experience over Northeast Frontier Railway, revised specifications for Anti-Collision Device have been framed. ACD System to the revised specifications is to be developed by KRCL and this is planned to be installed for trial on three Railway Zones (Southern, South Central and South Western Railways) covering 1600 Route Kilometres.

(e) Further proliferation of Anti-Collision Device on Indian Railways will be planned based on performance evaluation of the equipment with improved specifications on the Southern, South Central and South Western Railways.

Proposal from new rail projects in Punjab

2587. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: